

2 18. The tackifier of claim 17 which additionally comprises an effective amount of water to produce a pumpable composition of said synthetic polymer, said associated natural organic material and said cross-linking agent.

3 19. The tackifier of claim 17 in which said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 10% to 80% by weight, said natural organic material associated with said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 15% to 75% by weight, and said cross-linking agent is present in an amount from 1% to 15% by weight.

4 20. The tackifier of claim 17 in which said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 10% to 60% by weight, said natural organic material associated with said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 15% to 45% by weight, and said cross-linking agent is present in an amount from 1% to 10% by weight.

5 21. The tackifier of claim 17 in which said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 50% to 65% by weight, said natural organic material associated with said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 25% to 35% by weight, and said cross-linking agent is present in an amount from 8% to 12%.

6 22. The tackifier of claim 17 in which said natural organic material is selected from the group consisting of: cornstarch, rice starch, wheat starch, potato starch, polysaccharides, mint, animal gelatin, plant seed husks, corn gluten, natural latex, guar gum, psyllium, mucilage, and kelp.

7 23. The tackifier of claim 17 in which said cross-linking agent is selected from the group consisting of: sodium borate, sodium metaborate, sodium tetraborate, hydrated sodium borate,

hydrated sodium metaborate, hydrated sodium tetraborate, magnesium sulfate, molybdenum sulfate, and sodium molybdate.

8 24. The tackifier of claim 17 which additionally consists essentially of a surfactant present in an amount ranging between a trace amount and about 1% by weight.

9 25. The tackifier of claim 17 which additionally includes
of a fiber to form a slurry.

10 26. The slurry of claim 25 which additionally comprises an effective amount of water to produce a pumpable composition of said synthetic polymer, said associated natural organic material, and said cross-linking agent.

11 27. The slurry of claim 25 in which said tackifier portion includes said synthetic polymer being present in an amount from 10% to 80% by weight, said natural organic material associated with said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 15% to 75% by weight, and said cross-linking agent being present in an amount from 1% to 15% by weight.

12 28. The slurry of claim 25 in which said tackifier portion includes said synthetic polymer being present in an amount from 10% to 60% by weight, said natural organic material associated with said synthetic polymer being present in an amount from 15% to 45% by weight, and said cross-linking agent is present in an amount from 1% to 10% by weight.

13 29. The slurry of claim 25 in which said tackifier portion includes said synthetic polymer being present in an amount from 50% to 65% by weight, said natural organic material associated with said synthetic polymer being present in an amount from 25% to

35% by weight, and said cross-linking agent being present in an amount from 8% to 12%.

14 30. The tackifier of claim 25 in which said natural organic material is selected from the group consisting *essentially* of: cornstarch, rice starch, wheat starch, potato starch, polysaccharides, mint, animal gelatin, plant seed husks, corn gluten, natural latex, guar gum, psyllium, mucilage, and kelp. *112*

15 *Cancelled* 31. The tackifier of claim 25 in which said cross-linking agent is selected from the group *consisting of*: sodium borate, sodium metaborate, sodium tetraborate, hydrated sodium borate, hydrated sodium metaborate, hydrated sodium tetraborate, and magnesium sulfate.

16 32. The tackifier of claim 25 which additionally includes of a surfactant present in an amount ranging between a trace amount and about 1% by weight.